

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7593

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 0693

FOR ASST SECRETARY TODMAN, ARA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID SHUM HA

SUBJ: TITLE III CONSIDERATIONS

REF: NOV 23, 1977 LETTER

1. I UNDERSTAND OUR TITLE III PL-480 PROPOSAL IS RAPIDLY
WORKING ITS WAY FORWARD IN STATE AND INTERAGENCY CHANNELS.
AS IT NEARS FINAL CONSIDERATION, YOU MAY FIND USEFUL A
REITERATION OF SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL FACTORS THAT
ENTERED INTO MY ENDORSEMENT OF THE PROPOSAL.

2. OUR INTEREST IS CONSISTENT WITH THE NOW CLEARLY
STATED ADMINISTRATION POLICY OF FINDING WAYS TO IMPROVE
THE LOT OF THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES. IT IS FITTING THAT
SO MAJOR AN ASSISTANCE PROPOSAL BE MADE FOR THE POOREST
COUNTRY IN THE HEMISPHERE, A CLOSE NEIGHBOR OF THE
U.S. AND A MAJOR SUPPLIER OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO THE
U.S. IT ACCORDS EQUALLY WELL WITH CONGRESS' DESIRE TO HELP
THE MOST NEEDY AND TO EMPHASIZE SELF-HELP. IN THIS
LATTER CONNECTION, I WANT TO REPEAT THAT WE WILL NOT
PROCEED WITH THE TITLE III PROGRAM UNLESS THE GOH COMMITS
ITSELF TO--AND SUBSEQUENTLY MAKES GOOD ON--A SET OF MAJOR
DEVELOPMENT POLICY REFORMS.

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3. WE ALSO BELIEVE OUR DEVELOPMENT EFFORT IS AN
APPROPRIATE MEANS TO PROMOTE U.S. INTERESTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS.
REAL DEVELOPMENT HERE WILL PRODUCE A BETTER INFORMED, MORE
ASSERTIVE CITIZENRY AND ENCOURAGE PLURALISM. IT WILL ALSO
MEAN A SET OF INSTITUTIONS BETTER ABLE TO SERVE THE
PEOPLE. IN HAITI'S CURRENT STATE OF EXTREME POVERTY,

ACUTE UNDERDEVELOPMENT, AND INADEQUATE HUMAN AS WELL AS FINANCIAL RESOURCES, THE CAPACITY FOR GROWTH IN DIRECTIONS COMPLEMENTARY TO U.S. INTERESTS IS GREATLY LIMITED.

4. ALTHOUGH THE ABOVE ARGUMENTS FOR A TITLE III PROGRAM ARE VALID, WE WOULD NOT OFFER THEM WITHOUT SOME INDICATIONS THAT THE GOH WAS MAKING AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE ITS HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE AND THAT IT WILL GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE TITLE III REFORMS. I THINK THE GOH HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS INTENT TO IMPROVE. ALTHOUGH THE ATTACK ON PASTOR LUC NEREE IN DECEMBER WAS A SETBACK-- AND THERE MAY WELL BE OTHERS, THE GOVERNMENT OVER THE PAST SIX YEARS HAS ESTABLISHED A STEADY IF SLOW PACE TOWARD LIBERALIZATION OF POLITICAL CONDITIONS. THAT TREND HAS BEEN CONTINUED BY THE VISIT THIS WEEK OF THE IAPA MISSION AND THE PROSPECTIVE VISIT OF THE IAHR. WITH RESPECT TO DEVELOPMENT POLICY, THERE ARE SOME INFLUENTIAL ELEMENTS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT WHICH ARE PRESSING FOR MAJOR REFORMS, AND THERE IS SOME--ALBEIT LIMITED--EVIDENCE OF RECEPTIVITY ON THE PART OF THE PRESIDENT. THE GOOD INTENTIONS ARTICULATED BY THE GOH AT THE JOINT COMMISSION MEETING LAST JUNE HAVE NOT THUS FAR BEEN REALIZED. THE TITLE III PROPOSAL WILL JOIN THE ISSUE.

5. I THINK THE COMBINATION OF HAITI'S NEED, U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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POLICY INTERESTS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF REAL PROGRESS MAKES A PERSUASIVE CASE FOR THE TITLE III PROGRAM. JONES

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